

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's Office Action and has amended the application responsively to avoid the objections raised by the Examiner.

Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to him during the recent interview that was kindly granted.

Thus, applicant is submitting new proposed Figures 5 and 6. The new Figure 5 submitted herewith, is based on the original claim 8 which recites the polygonal surrounding surface. It is believed that the new Figure 5 has the polygonal configuration or surrounding surface, as required by the Examiner.

Applicant has amended the specification to recite the language as included in the original claim 8.

The new Figure 6 shows that polygonal surrounding surface, as in Figure 5, but adapted to the collar 22. During the interview, the Examiner mentioned that the new Figures 5 and 6 are acceptable.

It was also agreed during the interviews to omit the previously proposed Figure 7, and to delete any reference to it in the specification. Furthermore, the claims have been amended to omit the expression, "knife-like," to which the Examiner has objected.

It is submitted that Figures 5 and 6 do not introduce new matter since they are clearly supported by the original claim 8. Claim 8 is also supported by the specification, as originally filed.

It is believed, therefore, that the new Figures 5 and 6 respond to the Examiner's objections to the drawings.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 5, and 11 because they recite features that are shown in Figures 3 and 4, in combination with the features shown in Figures 1 and 2. The Examiner objects to such a combination of features on the grounds that "there is no basis for the claimed combination or features."

In view thereof, applicant has replaced claim 4 with the newly submitted claim 18 which avoids the Examiner's objections of combining the features of Figures 1 and 2 with those of Figures 3 and 4.

Claim 18 is written in independent form and does not conflict with the features recited in the base claim 1.

Claim 5 has been similarly replaced by the new claim 19 to avoid conflict with the features written in base claim 1. Claim 19 is also written in independent form for the same reasons stated in relation to claim 18.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend on claim 18 instead of the base claim 1. In this way, the features recited in claim 11 and shown in Figures 3 and 4, do not conflict with the features recited in claim 1 and shown in Figures 1 and 2.

The Examiner has required clarification with respect to "piston head" recited in claims 1 and 17. In response thereto, applicant has amended these two claims 1 and 17 to provide for the required clarification.

The Examiner has required clarification with respect to the expression "knife-like" in claim 9. However, as noted above, this expression, "knife-like," is being omitted in claim 9.

Applicant has also amended the specification on page 5 to provide for clarification.

The Examiner has once again reviewed the prior art references during the interview and has concluded that the

claims present in the application do not read on the prior art.

It is believed that with the present amendments to the claims, drawings, and specification, the Examiner's objections have been responded to. It is believed, therefore, that the application is in condition for final allowance.

Should the Examiner consider it advisable or require that the claims and/or specification be further amended or corrected in formal respects to place the application in condition for final allowance, then it I respectfully requested that such amendments be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, through a phone call to applicant's representative, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being furnished with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

12-19-03

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12-19-03
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